


FORM PTO-1390 (REV 1-98)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 81833.0031
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER (if known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5) Not assigned 097980816
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP00/04869	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 19 July 2000 (7.19.00)	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 21 July 1999 (7.21.99)	
TITLE OF INVENTION		COSMETIC MATERIAL SHEET, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING OF THE SHEET AND APPARATUS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE	
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Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). 			
Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: 			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5) 097/980816		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NUMBER PCT/JP00/04869		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 81833.0031	
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 C.F.R. 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):					
Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) nor international search fee (37 C.F.R. 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO of JPO \$[1040]					
International preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$[890]					
International preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 C.F.R. 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$[740]					
International preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$[710]					
International preliminary examination fee (37 C.F.R. 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$[100]					
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$ 890.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.492(e)).				\$ 130.00	
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER ALLOWED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	8	20	0	X \$18.00	0
Independent claims	3	3	0	X \$84.00	0
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)				X \$280.00	\$ 280.00
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				1300.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 C.F.R. § 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.					
SUBTOTAL =				1300.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 C.F.R. 1.492(f)).				\$ 0	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				0	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 C.F.R. 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 C.F.R. 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$ 0	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				1300.00	
\$				Amt. Refunded \$	
				Amt. charged	
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Checks in the amounts of <u>\$1300.00</u> and <u>\$0</u> to cover the above fees are enclosed.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 50-1314 in the amount of <u>0</u> to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1314. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.</p> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 C.F.R. 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 C.F.R. 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.</p> <p>SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number 000026021 → </p> <p>HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P. 500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900 Los Angeles, California 90071 Phone: 213-337-6700 Fax: 213-337-6701</p> <p>26021 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE</p> <p>SIGNATURE <i>Lawrence J. McClure</i> Lawrence J. McClure REG.NO. 44,228 EL 894 944 079 US October 31, 2001</p>					

Transmittal Letter to the United States Designated Office (DO/US)—Entry Into National Stage under 35 U.S.C. 371—PTO 1390 [13-7]

DESCRIPTION

COSMETIC MATERIAL SHEET, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING OF THE SHEET
AND APPARATUS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a cosmetic material sheet which enables a trial use of a powdery cosmetic such as a foundation, an eye shadow, a cheek color or the like hygienically as a sample, enables a sale thereof as a product and particularly enables a use thereof as a disposable product, a method for manufacturing of the same and an apparatus for use in the manufacture.

Background of the Invention

Conventionally, in order to contain a sample of powdery cosmetics such as a foundation, an eye shadow, a cheek color or the like, various kinds of sample cases have been marketed. However, all of them have a stereoscopic or three-dimensional shape so that there has been a problem that they are bulky and hence, it is difficult to handle them in transportation or the like.

Accordingly, a thin cosmetic sampler has been proposed as disclosed in Japanese Laid-open Patent Publication 308633/1996. As shown in Fig. 25, this cosmetic sampler is

constituted such that a cosmetic sample layer 62 having a desired pattern is printed on an upper surface of a mount 61 by a screen printing and a transparent protective cover 64 is adhered to the upper surface of the mount 61 by way of an adhesive agent layer 63 coated on an outer peripheral portion of the upper surface such that the protective cover 64 can be peeled off. Then, in forming the cosmetic sample layer 62, as cosmetic material which constitutes the cosmetic sample layer 62, material which dissolves powder which eventually becomes a cosmetic sample in a solvent is used. Then, by printing such a slurry-like cosmetic material on the upper surface of the mount 61 by a screen printing, the solvent in the cosmetic material is evaporated and the cosmetic sample layer 62 remains.

However, the above-mentioned cosmetic sampler uses, as the cosmetic material which constitutes the cosmetic sample layer 62, material which dissolves powder which becomes the cosmetic sample in the solvent and hence, the cosmetic sampler can be used only as a color sample. Further, the color of the cosmetic sample layer 62 does not agree with the color of the cosmetic actually used.

The present invention has been made in view of the above-mentioned circumstance and it is an object of the present invention to provide a cosmetic material sheet which can offer powdery cosmetic material totally having the same color, gloss and touch as those of powdery material actually used as a sample

or the like and can firmly adhere the powdery cosmetic material to a sheet substrate, a method for manufacturing such a cosmetic material sheet and a device used for such a method.

Disclosure of the Invention

A cosmetic material sheet of the present invention includes a sheet substrate having a large number of concave portions formed on an upper surface thereof, a powdery cosmetic material adhering layer formed on the upper surface of the sheet substrate at a given position in a state that the powder cosmetic material adhering layer covers arbitrary concave portions out of a large number of concave portions, and a protective cover which is releaseably adhered to the upper surface of the sheet substrate in a state that the protective cover covers the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer, wherein each concave portion has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape.

That is, according to the cosmetic material sheet of the present invention, at a given position on the upper surface of the sheet substrate which has a large number of concave portions on the upper surface thereof, the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is formed in a state that the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer covers arbitrary concave portions out of a large number of concave portions. Accordingly, by using powdery cosmetic material actually used (powdery cosmetic

material having the same quality as that of powdery cosmetic material manufactured for sale) which is not sample cosmetic material as the powdery cosmetic material which constitutes the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhesive layer, different from a conventional product which uses sample cosmetic material which is obtained by dissolving powdery cosmetic material actually used in a solvent or the like, it becomes possible to offer the powdery cosmetic material totally having the same color, gloss and touch as those of the powdery cosmetic material actually used as a sample. Accordingly, by actually trying out the powdery cosmetic material, a consumer can accurately judge whether the powdery cosmetic material which the consumer is going to purchase has quality and hue that the consumer desires so that the cosmetic material sheet is greatly useful for promoting the sale of the powdery cosmetic material.

Further, the cosmetic material sheet uses the powdery cosmetic material actually used as the powdery cosmetic material of the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhering layer and hence, the cosmetic material sheet can be used as a product. Further, the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is formed in a state that the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer covers the arbitrary concave portions out of a large number of concave portions arranged on the upper surface of the sheet substrate and hence, the powdery cosmetic

material which constitutes the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is filled in the above-mentioned arbitrary concave portions. The powdery cosmetic material which is filled in the arbitrary concave portions performs an anchoring effect so that the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is firmly adhered to the sheet substrate. Further, the above-mentioned concave portions have an oblong shape in a plan view and have bottom portions thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape so that the powdery cosmetic material which is filled in the above-mentioned arbitrary concave portions can be easily taken out by adhering the powdery cosmetic material to a powder puff or the like whereby a substantially total amount of the powdery cosmetic material which constitutes the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer can be used.

According to the present invention, when a plate-like frame which has a height thereof higher than a height of the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is laminated on the upper surface of the above-mentioned sheet substrate and a protective cover is releaseably adhered to an upper surface of the plate-like frame, there is no possibility that an upper surface of the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhering layer comes into contact with a lower surface of the protective cover so that even when the protective cover is peeled off in the trial use of the cosmetic material sheet, the powdery cosmetic material is hardly adhered to the lower

surface of the protective cover.

Then, a method for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet includes a step for supplying a mount which has a large number of concave portions formed on an upper surface thereof wherein each concave portion has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape, a step for filling powdery cosmetic material at a given position on the upper surface of the mount supplied in the above-mentioned manner in a state that the powdery cosmetic material covers the arbitrary concave portions among a large number of concave portions, a step for pressing the filled powdery cosmetic material, a step for adhering lamination material to the upper surface of the mount after the mount passes the pressing in a state that the lamination material covers the pressed powdery cosmetic material, and a step for cutting given portions of the mount after the mount passes the adhesion of the lamination material thus obtaining a cut piece as a cosmetic material sheet.

Further, a device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention includes a supply device which supplies a mount which has a large number of concave portions formed on an upper surface thereof wherein each concave portion has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape, a filling device which fills powdery cosmetic material at a given

position on the upper surface of the mount supplied from the supply device in a state that the powdery cosmetic material covers the arbitrary concave portions among a large number of concave portions, a press device which presses the powdery cosmetic material filled by the filling device, a laminating device which adheres lamination material to the upper surface of the mount after the mount passes the press device in a state that the lamination material covers the pressed powdery cosmetic material, and a cutting device which cuts given portions of the mount after the mount passes the laminating device thus obtaining a cut piece as a cosmetic material sheet.

That is, the method and device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention enable the uniform and efficient manufacturing of the cosmetic material sheet which has the above-mentioned excellent effects.

Further, in the method for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention, when the mount is formed of a strip-like mount and the method includes a step which winds or takes up the strip-like mount after cutting the cosmetic material sheets, the cosmetic material sheets can be continuously manufactured.

Brief Explanation of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing one embodiment of a cosmetic material sheet of the present invention, Fig. 2 is

an exploded perspective view of the cosmetic material sheet, Fig. 3 is a cross-sectional view of an essential part of the cosmetic material sheet, Fig. 4 is an explanatory view of concave portions of the cosmetic material sheet, Fig. 5 is a transverse cross-sectional view of the concave portions, and Fig. 6 is a longitudinal cross-sectional view of the concave portions.

Fig. 7 is an explanatory view showing one embodiment of a device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention. Fig. 8 is an explanatory view of a filling device of the manufacturing device, and Fig. 9 and Fig. 10 are explanatory views of a press device.

Fig. 11 and Fig. 12 are explanatory views of a method for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention.

Fig. 13 is a perspective view showing another embodiment of the cosmetic material sheet of the present invention. Fig. 14 is an exploded perspective view of the cosmetic material sheet.

Fig. 15 is a perspective view showing still another embodiment of the cosmetic material sheet of the present invention. Fig. 16 is a cross-sectional view of an essential part of the cosmetic material sheet.

Fig. 17 is an explanatory view of a method for manufacturing the cosmetic material sheet shown in Fig. 15 and

Fig. 16.

Fig. 18 is an explanatory view of a cutting device in the device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet of the present invention and Fig. 19 is an explanatory view showing the manner of operation of the cutting device.

Fig. 20, Fig. 21, Fig. 22 and Fig. 23 are views showing modifications of the concave portions.

Fig. 24 is a view showing a modification of the state of the arrangement of the concave portions.

Fig. 25 is a cross-sectional view of a conventional example.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

Subsequently, the present invention is explained in detail.

A cosmetic material sheet of the present invention includes a sheet substrate on which a large number of concave portions are formed, a powdery cosmetic material adhering layer and a protective cover.

As the sheet substrate, various kinds of resin sheets including PP (polypropylene) resin sheets or the like and various paper sheets including woodfree paper or the like can be used. A thickness of the PP resin sheet is set to 6 to 400 μm , and more particularly, to 100 to 200 μm .

On the other hand, the woodfree paper or the paperboard

is set to 80 to 500 g/m², and more particularly to 180 to 310 g/m².

To take out a substantially total amount of powdery cosmetic material adhered to the inside of the concave portions, each concave portion is required to have an oblong shape in a plan view and to have a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape. In the present invention, "oblong" means not only "elliptical" but also an "elongated shape" shown in Fig. 20. Further, "curved plane of a dish shape" means not only a shape of an earthen mortar or the like but also a curved shape having an acute angle as shown in Fig. 21 and a shape having a flat bottom surface as shown in Fig. 22 and Fig. 23 (a flat surface being indicated by A in Fig. 22 as well as in Fig. 23). As a method for forming such concave portions, a method which adopts embossing (flat-pressure press forming or circular-pressure press forming) or a method which adopts screen printing, photogravure printing or offset printing or the like can be used. Further, as a pattern for arranging a large number of such concave portions on the upper surface of the sheet substrate, various patterns including a checkered pattern, a staggered pattern, a radial pattern, a vortex pattern or the like or a combination of these patterns can be considered.

Further, a depth of the concave portions is set within a range of 1 to 500 μm , and more particularly within a range of 1 to 300 μm . Further, a lateral width of the concave portions is set within a range of 50 to 2000 μm , and more particularly

within a range of 50 to 1000 μm .

Further, a longitudinal width of the concave portions is set within a range of 50 to 2000 μm , and more particularly within a range of 50 to 1000 μm . Then, when the depth of the concave portions is set to 1 to 500 μm , the lateral width is set to 50 to 2000 μm and the longitudinal width is set to 50 to 2000 μm with respect to the concave portions, a substantially total amount of powdery cosmetic material can be taken out without leaving the powdery cosmetic material in the inside of the concave portions. Particularly, when the depth of the concave portions is set to 1 to 300 μm , the lateral width is set to 50 to 1000 μm and the longitudinal width is set to 50 to 1000 μm with respect to the concave portions, a total amount of powdery cosmetic material can be taken out more easily. Further, since the shape of the concave portions can be made small, the number of concave portions which can be formed on the upper surface of the sheet substrate can be increased so that the removal preventive property derived from the anchoring effect can be increased. Further, when the shape of the above-mentioned concave portions is formed in an elliptical shape, the lateral width indicates a length of a long axis and the longitudinal width indicates a length of a short axis.

As a method which forms the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer on the sheet substrate, it is preferable to use a method in which the powdery cosmetic material mounted on a

mesh of a printing plate is scrubbed down through the mesh and is applied to a desired position on the sheet substrate using a brush and thereafter the powdery cosmetic material is pressed. Since the method uses the brush, bristles do not collapse the powdery cosmetic material and hence, the quality of the powdery cosmetic material is not deteriorated.

As the protective cover, lamination material or the like which is cut in a given shape by a cutting device of a manufacturing device which will be explained later can be used. A transparent or a semi-transparent protective cover such as a PET film or the like can be used. A thickness of the PET film is set to 6 to 180 μm , and more particularly to 25 to 75 μm .

It may be possible to insert a plate-like frame between the sheet substrate and the protective cover. As the plate-like frame, a PET film, a woodfree paper or the like can be used. A thickness of the PET film is set to 6 to 300 μm , and more particularly to 50 to 150 μm . On the other hand, the woodfree paper or the paperboard is set to 80 to 450 g/m^2 , and more particularly to 180 to 260 g/m^2 .

As an adhesive agent which is used for laminating the sheet substrate, the plate-like frame and the protective cover, a room-temperature curing-type adhesive agent, a thermosetting-type adhesive agent, a hot-melt-type adhesive agent, a pressure-sensitive-type adhesive agent or the like can be used.

Further, as an adhesive agent which is used for laminating the protective cover to the sheet substrate, a re-peeling type adhesive agent (an adhesive agent of a type which performs an adhesion again after peeling) or a weak-adhesion adhesive agent (an adhesive agent which makes the re-adhesion after peeling difficult).

Subsequently, the embodiment of the present invention is explained in detail in conjunction with drawings hereinafter.

Fig. 1 shows one embodiment of a cosmetic material sheet of the present invention. In this embodiment, the cosmetic material sheet includes a sheet substrate 1, a plate-like frame 2 and a protective cover 3. The sheet substrate 1 is formed of a milky-white PP resin sheet having a thickness of 100 μm and a large number of concave portions 5 (see Fig. 3) are formed on a whole surface of the upper surface in a checkered pattern (see Fig. 4). In this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 4, the concave portions 5 are arranged not only in the checkered pattern but also in a state that a group consisting of five rows of the concave portions 5 disposed close to each other are arranged in a staggered pattern in two stages, that is, upper and lower stages, wherein the group consisting of five rows of the concave portions 5 in the upper stage enter the group consisting of five rows of the concave portions 5 in the lower stage. These respective concave portions 5 (depth: 60 μm) are formed by embossing and have an elliptical shape (the length

of the long axis: 100 μm , the length of the short axis: 30 μm) in a plan view as shown in Fig. 4 and have bottom surfaces thereof formed into a curved plane of a mortar shape (or a dish shape) as shown in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6.

Numeral 6 indicates a foundation layer (powdery cosmetic material adhering layer) which is formed on the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 in a given shape (a quadrangular shape in this embodiment). As powdery foundation material 6a, cosmetic material actually used (cosmetic material having the same quality as that of cosmetic material produced for sale) which is different from sample cosmetic material is used.

The above-mentioned plate-like frame 2 is composed of a milky-white PET resin sheet (not shown in the drawing) having a thickness of 188 μm and an aluminum vapor-deposition layer having a thickness of 50 μm (not shown in the drawing) which is formed on the upper surface of the resin sheet. The plate-like frame 2 is laminated to the upper surface of the above-mentioned sheet substrate 1 by way of a strong-adhesive agent layer 7. In the plate-like frame 2, at a portion which corresponds to the foundation layer 6, a window portion 2a is formed such that the plate-like frame 2 surrounds the foundation layer 6. Further, a height of the plate-like frame 2 is set higher than a height of the foundation layer 6 such that a gap is formed between the foundation layer 6 and the protective cover 3.

Further, the above-mentioned aluminum vapor-deposition layer is formed by vapor-depositing aluminum on an upper surface of the PET resin sheet in a usual manner. On the whole or a portion of the upper surface of the aluminum vapor-deposition layer, a product number, a color number or the like is printed by silk printing or photogravure printing or the like or a name of a cosmetic maker, a catch phrase, a trade mark, a product number, a retailer indication, a design, a ground pattern, other information or the like is indicated.

The above-mentioned window portion 2a is formed as an opening such that the window portion 2a is approximately equal to or slightly smaller than the foundation layer 6 in size. However, when the window portion 2a is formed such that it is slightly smaller than the foundation layer 6 in size, even when the foundation layer 6 is formed such that it is made slightly larger than a given size or is slightly displaced from an outer line, the window portion 2a plays a role of a mask when the protective cover 3 is laminated on the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 so that an advantageous effect that the foundation layer 6 appears to be formed at a given position through the window portion 2a is obtained.

The shape of the window portion 2a is configured in an arbitrary shape such as a rectangular shape, a circular shape, an elliptical shape, a heart shape, a lip shape, a lip stick shape or the like.

The protective cover 3 is formed of a transparent PET resin sheet having a thickness of 75 μm . Due to a weak adhesive agent layer 8 which is coated and formed on a portion of a lower surface of the protective cover 3 which corresponds to the upper surface (that is, the whole surface of the aluminum vapor-deposited layer) of the plate-like frame 2 except for one corner portion (front left corner portion in the drawing) 3c, the protective cover 3 is releaseably adhered to the upper surface of the plate-like frame 2.

Then, since the height of the plate-like frame 2 is set higher than the height of the foundation layer 6 in a state that protective cover 3 is adhered to the upper surface of the plate-like frame 2, the lower surface of the protective cover 3 is not brought into contact with the upper surface of the foundation layer 6. Further, since the weak adhesive agent layer 8 is not coated or formed on one corner portion 3c of the lower surface, the protective cover 3 can be easily peeled from the above-mentioned one corner portion 3c.

The above-mentioned cosmetic material sheet can be manufactured by using a manufacturing device shown in Fig. 7. In the drawing, numeral 11 indicates a supply device which is arranged at one end portion (left end portion in the drawing) of the manufacturing device. A roller 12 around which a mount 10 is wound is rotatably supported on the supply device 11. Further, a distal end of the mount 10 is pulled out toward the

other end side such that the distal end is wound around a roller 48 of the winding device 19 which will be explained later and is arranged at the other end portion (a right end portion in the drawing) of the manufacturing device. The roller 12 of the supply device 11 and the roller 48 of the winding device 19 are designed to be controlled such that they are synchronously and intermittently driven. Further, a pair of front and rear rollers (not shown in the drawing) are arranged between the supply device 11 and a base 13 which will be explained later so as to make the mount 10 always droop between a pair of rollers. Due to such a constitution, the mount 10 can have an excess in length between both rollers so that the mount 10 can be smoothly moved from one end side to the other end side of the manufacturing device.

The mount 10 (made of the sheet substrate 1 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1) is formed of a milky-white PP resin sheet having a thickness of 100 μm and a large number of concave portions 5 (see Fig. 4 to Fig. 6) on the entire surface of the mount 10 in a checkered pattern. Further, on a rear surface of the mount 10, a printing such as the responsibility indication or the like (not shown in the drawing) is performed at a given interval in the longitudinal direction.

On an upper portion of the base 13, a filling device 15, a press device 16, a lamination device 17, a cutter device 18 and a winding device 19 are mounted.

The filling device 15, as shown in Fig. 8, includes a printing plate 21, a brush 22, powdery cosmetic material supply means (not shown in the drawing), printing plate moving means (not shown in the drawing) which moves the printing plate 21 in the upward and downward directions, and brush moving means (not shown in the drawing).

The printing plate 21 is comprised of a rectangular sheet body 21a made of polypropylene (thickness: 0.5 mm) and a mesh 21b made of silk GG16 (thickness: 0.5 mm) formed at a given position of the rectangular sheet body 21a. The mesh 21b is formed in a shape corresponding to the shape of foundation layer 6 of the cosmetic material sheet.

The brush 22 is constituted of a large number of bristles 25 made of nylon or polyethylene (diameter at proximal portions: 0.2 mm ϕ , total length: 60 mm) having distal end thereof tapered, and a bristle holding portion 26 which holds a large number of bristles 25 on a lower surface thereof such that bristles 25 are extended downwardly. On an upper surface of the bristle holding portion 26, a recessed portion 26a which accommodates powdery foundation material 6a is formed. The powdery foundation material 6a which is actually used as a product (cosmetic material actually used) is supplied to and filled in the recessed portion 26a from the powdery cosmetic supply means. Further, in a bottom surface of the recessed portion 26a, a plurality of through holes 26b (hole diameter: 3 mm ϕ) which are

extended linearly to the lower surface of the bristle holding portion 26 (to be more specific, portions of the lower surface between respective bristles 25) are formed so that the powdery foundation material 6a can be uniformly supplied onto the mesh 21b of the printing plate 21.

The brush moving means finely moves the brush 22 in the upward and downward directions (vibrates the brush 22 with an amplitude of 1 mm) and performs one reciprocation (pitch: 1 second, 10 cm/stroke) in the leftward and rightward direction (that is, in the advancing direction of the mount 10).

The press device 16 includes, as shown in Fig. 9 and Fig. 10, a press portion 27 of a pneumatic cylinder type (pressure: 0.3 kgf/cm², time: 0.5 to 1.0 sec), a shock absorbing member 28 (made of an upper-side shock absorbing urethane rubber layer 29 and a lower-side foamed urethane layer 30) which is mounted on a lower surface of the press portion 27, a mesh 31 (material: silk) of XX7 which is disposed between the shock absorbing member 28 and the mount 10, a shock absorbing urethane rubber plate 32 having a flat plate shape which is disposed below the mount 10, drive means (not shown in the drawings) which drives the press portion 27 in the upward and downward directions, a dust collecting device 33 which sucks powdery material adhered to the mesh 31, a dust collecting device 34 which sucks powdery material adhered to the mount 10, and a pair of rollers 35 which are served for winding the mesh 31 each time the pressing is

performed. Both of these rollers 35 are rotatable in a reverse manner. The mesh 31 is wound from one roller 35 to the other roller 35 and when the mesh 31 is totally paid off from one roller 35, these rollers are rotated in the reverse direction so that mesh 31 is wound from the other roller 35 to one roller 35 so that they can be used semi-permanently.

Using these filling device 15 and press device 16, a given portion on the upper surface of the mount 10 is coated with the powdery foundation material 6a in the following manner.

That is, first of all, upon completion of the preceding filling operation, the printing plate 21 is disposed at a position spaced apart from the mount 10. Subsequently, due to the intermittent driving of the roller 12 of the supply device 11 and the roller 48 of the winding device 19, a silk printing expected portion of the mount 10 is moved to the lower side of the printing plate 21. Then, the printing plate 21 is descended upon driving of the printing plate moving means so that the mesh 21b of the printing plate 21 is positioned above the silk printing expected portion of the mount 10 with a given gap between them. Subsequently, the brush 22 is finely moved in the upward and downward directions upon driving of the brush moving means in one reciprocation in the leftward and rightward directions. Then, within one reciprocation, the powdery foundation material 6a which is accommodated in the recessed portion 26a of the brush 22 is made to flow down through a large

number of through holes 26b and to fall on the mesh 21b. Subsequently, the powdery foundation material 6a is pushed into openings of the mesh by the bristles 25 and is adhered to the upper surface of the mount 10 (see Fig. 11). Here, since the brush 22 is finely moved in the upward and downward directions, the mesh 21b which comes into contact with the bristles 25 also finely moves and hence, the powdery foundation material 6a can easily fall from the apertures of the mesh 21b so that the powdery foundation material 6a is not collapsed.

Then, in the press device 16, upon completion of the preceding pressing operation, the press portion 27, the mesh 31 and the urethane rubber plate 32 are at positions spaced apart from the mount 10 (see Fig. 10). Subsequently, due to the above-mentioned intermittent movement, a pressing expected portion (a portion where the powdery foundation material 6a is filled by the filling device 15) of the mount 10 is fed to the lower side of the pressing portion 27. Then, the pressing portion 27 is descended upon actuation of the drive means so as to press the portion where the above-mentioned powdery foundation material 6a is filled. As a result, the foundation layer 6 (see Fig. 12) is formed on the upper surface of the mount 10.

The lamination device 17 is a device provided for adhering lamination material 37 to the upper surface of the mount 10. The above-mentioned lamination material 37 is comprised of a

transparent PET resin sheet (eventually forming the protective cover 3 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1) having a thickness of 75 μm , a weak adhesive agent layer which is formed on a rear surface of the resin sheet, a frame (eventually forming the plate-like frame 2 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 1) which is adhered to the weak adhesive agent layer and has a window portion 2a formed therein at a portion corresponding to the foundation layer 6 on the upper surface of the mount 10, and a strong adhesive agent layer formed on a rear surface of the frame. In Fig. 7, the resin sheet, the weak adhesive agent layer, the frame and the strong adhesive agent layer are not shown in the drawing.

The lamination device 17 includes, as shown in Fig. 7, a roller 40 around which a lamination member 38 (member which is constituted by releaseably adhering a peel-off member 39 which is formed by subjecting the surface of the PET film to the mold release treatment using silicone or the like on the strong adhesive agent layer formed on the rear surface of the lamination material 37) is wound, a roller 41 which winds the peel-off member 39 of the lamination member 38, and a roller 43 which the lamination material 37 of the lamination member 38 passes. The lamination member 38 which is wound around the roller 40 is pulled out toward the other end side such that the distal end of the lamination member 38 is wound around the roller 48 of the winding device 19. In the midst of the winding operation, after the lamination member 38 passes the roller 42,

the peel-off member 39 of the lamination member 38 is wound around the roller 41. On the other hand, in a state that the lamination material 37 of the lamination member 38 passes the roller 43, the lamination material 37 is adhered with pressure to the upper surface of the mount 10 on the outer peripheral surface of the roller 43. In Fig. 7, numeral 44 to 46 are provided for transporting the lamination member 38.

The above-mentioned cutting device 18 cuts the mount 10 which has passed the lamination device 17 so as to produce the cosmetic material sheet shown in Fig. 1. Further, with respect to the mount 10, the portion remaining after cutting the mount 10 with the cutting device 18 is wound around the roller 48 of the winding device 19.

In this manner, in the above-mentioned embodiment, the cosmetic material sheets can be manufactured continuously. Further, by using cosmetic material actually used (cosmetic material having the same quality as that of powdery cosmetics manufactured for sale) which is not sample cosmetic material as the powdery foundation material 6a, different from a conventional product which uses the sample cosmetic material which is obtained by dissolving cosmetic material actually used in a solvent or the like, it becomes possible to offer the solid cosmetic material totally having the same color, gloss and touch as those of the cosmetic material actually used. Accordingly, by actually trying out the cosmetic material made of the solid

cosmetic material, a consumer can accurately judge whether the solid cosmetic material which the consumer is going to purchase has quality and hue that the consumer desires so that the cosmetic material sheet is greatly useful for promoting the sale of the solid cosmetic material. Such a cosmetic material sheet may be used either a sample sheet or as a sheet for product.

Further, since there exists a gap between the upper surface of the foundation layer 6 and the lower surface of the protective cover 3, when the protective cover 3 is peeled off, the powdery foundation material 6a of the foundation layer 6 is not adhered to the lower surface of the protective cover 3. Further, it becomes possible to protect the foundation layer 6 by shielding the foundation layer 6 from the outside by the protective cover 3 and, at the same time, the appearance of the whole cosmetic material sheet can be improved thus enhancing the value of the cosmetic material sheet as a product. Still further, since the cosmetic material sheet is thin, it can be propagated in a state that it is filed in a filing portion of a weekly magazine, or in a state that it is used as an advertisement guide printed matter such as a direct mail, a post card, a letter, a catalogue, a pamphlet or in a form that it is attached to the advertisement guide printed matter.

Fig. 13 and Fig. 14 show the other embodiment of the cosmetic material sheet of the present invention.

In this embodiment, the plate-like frame 2 of the

embodiment shown in Fig. 1 is not provided. Accordingly, in this embodiment, a protective cover 3 is directly adhered to an upper surface of a sheet substrate 1 by way of an adhesive agent layer 9. Further, the protective cover 3 is comprised of a quadrangular transparent window portion 3a which is formed in the center of the protective cover 3 and a printing frame portion 3b having a quadrangular frame shape which is formed around the transparent window portion 3a. With respect to this printing frame portion 3b, on a portion of a rear surface thereof except for one corner portion 3c (front left corner portion in the drawing), the adhesive agent layer 9 is formed and the protective cover 3 is releaseably adhered to the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 by way of this adhesive agent layer 9. Further, on a portion or the whole of the both surfaces of the printing frame portion 3b, a product number, a color number or the like is printed by silk printing or photogravure printing or the like or a name of a cosmetic maker, a catch phrase, a trade mark, a product number, a retailer indication, a design, a ground pattern or other information or the like is indicated. Other parts of this embodiment are identical with those of the above-mentioned embodiment and hence, identical parts are indicated by the same numerals. This embodiment can also achieve the same manner of operation and the same advantageous effects as the above-mentioned embodiment. However, in this embodiment, since the cosmetic material sheet is not provided

with the plate-like frame 2, the upper surface of the foundation layer 6 and the lower surface of the protective cover 3 are brought into contact with each other.

Further, in this embodiment, at the time of manufacturing the cosmetic material sheet, the lamination material 37 which is used in the lamination device 17 does not use the frame body. That is, the lamination material 37 is comprised of a transparent PET resin sheet having a thickness of 75 μm (eventually becoming the protective cover 3 in the embodiment shown in Fig. 13) and an adhesive agent layer (not shown in the drawing) which is formed on a rear surface of the resin sheet at a given position (portion corresponding to the printing frame portion 3b of the protective cover 3 except for one corner portion 3c).

Fig. 15 and Fig. 16 show still another embodiment of the cosmetic material sheet of the present invention. In this embodiment, three foundation layers 6 are formed on the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 of the embodiment shown in Fig. 1 at an approximately equal interval. Further, window portions 2a are formed in the plate-like frame 2 at portions thereof corresponding to the respective foundation layers 6. Still further, two U-shaped incisions 51 which are extended from the front end periphery of the protective cover 3 are formed in the protective cover 3 at positions corresponding to the respective window portions 2a such that portions which are surrounded by

the respective incisions 51 can be separated from the front end periphery of the protective cover 3 by cutting. In Fig. 15, the strong adhesive agent layer 7 and the weak adhesive agent layer 8 are not shown. Other parts of this embodiment are identical with those of the above-mentioned embodiments and hence, identical parts are indicated by the same numerals. This embodiment can also achieve the same manner of operation and the same advantageous effects as the above-mentioned embodiments.

Such a cosmetic material sheet can be manufactured in the same manner as the embodiment shown in Fig. 1. However, since three foundation layers 6 are formed on the upper surface of the mount 10 (see Fig. 17) in this embodiment, three sets of filling devices 15 shown in Fig. 7 and three sets of press devices 16 shown in Fig. 8 are provided. Here, when the powdery foundation materials 6a which are used in respective filling devices 15 are required to be different from each other in color, three colors can be simultaneously formed.

Further, as shown in Fig. 18, the cutting device 18 includes a cutter 54 which is comprised of a full cutting tooth 52 (formed of a rectangular tooth) which cuts both of the mount 10 and the lamination material 37 and a half cut tooth 53 (formed of one long-side tooth and four short-side teeth which are arranged in an equidistant manner within the full cutting tooth 52) which cuts only the protective cover 3. The cutting device

18 cuts the mount 10 which has passed the lamination device 17 as shown in Fig. 19. In Fig. 19, numeral 55 indicates cut lines (indicated by chain lines) formed by the full cutting tooth 52 and numeral 56 indicates half-cut lines (indicated by chain double-dashed lines) formed by the half-cut tooth 53. Respective cut pieces (not shown in the drawing) which are cut in this manner are collected as the cosmetic material sheets in a receiving base (not shown in the drawing). On the other hand, portions of the mount 10 remaining after the cutting operation are wound around the roller 48 of the winding device 19.

Although the cosmetic material sheets are manufactured continuously in the above-mentioned respective embodiments, the cosmetic material sheets may be manufactured one by one. Further, in the above-mentioned respective embodiments, a static eliminator may be provided to prevent dust or the like from adhering to the lamination material 37 or the like. Further, in the above-mentioned respective embodiments, as the sheet substrate 1, a sheet substrate which is formed by coating or laminating a transparent PET resin film having a thickness of 12 μm onto an upper surface of a woodfree paper (55 kg/m^2) having a thickness of 100 μm may be used. Still further, in the above-mentioned respective embodiments, the mesh 21b of the printing plate 21 may be made of nylon, PP resin, PE resin, Tetoron or stainless steel or the like. Further, by processing

the mesh 31 of the press device 16, characters such as UV, patterns or the like may be indicated on the surface of the foundation layer 6.

Further, as shown in Fig. 24, a large number of concave portions 5 formed on the whole surface of the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 may be arranged obliquely such that groups which are respectively made of five rows of neighboring concave portions in upper and lower stages are arranged in a staggered pattern.

Industrial Applicability

As has been described heretofore, according to the cosmetic material sheet of the present invention, by using powdery cosmetic material actually used (powdery cosmetic material having the same quality as that of powdery cosmetic material manufactured for sale) which is not sample cosmetic material as the powdery cosmetic material which constitutes the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhesive layer, different from a conventional product which uses the sample cosmetic material which is obtained by dissolving powdery cosmetic material actually used in a solvent or the like, it becomes possible to offer the powdery cosmetic material totally having the same color, gloss and touch as those of the powdery cosmetic material actually used as a sample. Accordingly, by actually trying out the powdery cosmetic material, a consumer

can accurately judge whether the powdery cosmetic material which the consumer is going to purchase has quality and hue which the consumer desires so that the cosmetic material sheet is greatly useful for promoting the sale of the powdery cosmetic material.

Further, the cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention uses the powdery cosmetic material actually used as the powdery cosmetic material of the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhering layer and hence, the cosmetic material sheet can be used as a product. Further, powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is formed in a state that the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer covers arbitrary concave portions out of a large number of concave portions arranged on the upper surface of the sheet substrate and hence, the powdery cosmetic material which constitutes the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is filled in the above-mentioned arbitrary concave portions. The powdery cosmetic material which is filled in the arbitrary concave portions performs an anchoring effect so that the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is firmly adhered to the sheet substrate. Further, the above-mentioned concave portions have an oblong shape in a plan view and have bottom portions thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape so that the powdery cosmetic material which is filled in the above-mentioned arbitrary concave portions can be easily taken out by adhering

the powdery cosmetic material to a powder puff or the like whereby a substantially total amount of the powdery cosmetic material which constitutes the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer can be used.

According to the present invention, when a plate-like frame which has a height thereof higher than that of a height of the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is laminated on the upper surface of the above-mentioned sheet substrate and a protective cover is releaseably adhered to an upper surface of the plate-like frame, there is no possibility that an upper surface of the above-mentioned powdery cosmetic material adhering layer comes into contact with a lower surface of the protective cover so that even when the protective cover is peeled in the trial use of the cosmetic material sheet, the powdery cosmetic material is hardly adhered to the lower surface of the protective cover.

Further, the method and device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to the present invention enable the uniform and efficient manufacturing of the cosmetic material which has the above-mentioned excellent effects.

Claims

1. A cosmetic material sheet comprising a sheet substrate having a large number of concave portions formed on an upper surface thereof, a powdery cosmetic material adhering layer formed on the upper surface of the sheet substrate at a given position in a state that the powder cosmetic material adhering layer covers arbitrary concave portions out of a large number of concave portions, and a protective cover which is releaseably adhered to the upper surface of the sheet substrate in a state that the protective cover covers the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer, wherein each concave portion has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape.

2. A cosmetic material sheet according to claim 1, wherein a depth of the concave portions is set to 1 to 500 μm , a lateral width of the concave portions is set to 50 to 2000 μm and a longitudinal width of the concave portions is set to 50 to 2000 μm .

3. A cosmetic material sheet according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a plate-like frame which has a height thereof higher than a height of the powdery cosmetic material adhering layer is laminated on the upper surface of sheet substrate and a protective cover is releaseably adhered to an upper surface of the plate-like frame.

4. A method for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet includes a step for supplying a mount which has a large number of concave portions formed on an upper surface thereof wherein each concave portion has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape, a step for filling powdery cosmetic material at a given position on the upper surface of the mount supplied in a state that the powdery cosmetic material covers the arbitrary concave portions among a large number of concave portions, a step for pressing the filled powdery cosmetic material, a step for adhering lamination material to the upper surface of the mount after the mount passes the pressing in a state that the lamination material covers the pressed powdery cosmetic material, and a step for cutting given portions of the mount after the mount passes the adhesion of the lamination material thus obtaining a test piece as a cosmetic material sheet.

5. A method for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to claim 4, wherein the mount is made of a strip-like mount and the strip-like mount is wound around after cutting the cosmetic material sheets.

6. A device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet comprising a supply device which supplies a mount which has a large number of concave portions formed on an upper surface thereof wherein each concave portion has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom portion thereof formed into a curved

plane of a dish shape, a filling device which fills powdery cosmetic material at a given position on the upper surface of the mount supplied from the supply device in a state that the powdery cosmetic material covers the arbitrary concave portions among a large number of concave portions, a press device which presses the powdery cosmetic material filled by the filling device, a laminating device which adheres lamination material to the upper surface of the mount after the mount passes the press device in a state that the lamination material covers the pressed powdery cosmetic material, and a cutting device which cuts given portions of the mount after the mount passes the laminating device thus obtaining a cut piece as a cosmetic material sheet.

7. A device for manufacturing a cosmetic material sheet according to claim 6, wherein the mount is made of a strip-like mount and the device includes a winding device which winds the strip-like mount which passes a cutting device.

Abstract

A cosmetic material sheet which comprises a sheet substrate 1 having, on an upper surface thereof, a large number of concave portions 5 arranged in a checkered pattern, a foundation layer 6 provided at a given position on the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 in a state of covering arbitrary concave portions 5 out of a large number of concave portions 5, and a protective cover 3 attached releaseably on the upper surface of the sheet substrate 1 in a state of covering the foundation layer 6, wherein each concave portion 5 has an oblong shape in a plan view and has a bottom part thereof formed into a curved plane of a dish shape, a method for the manufacture of the cosmetic material sheet and an apparatus for use in the manufacture are provided. The cosmetic material sheet can be used for providing a sample of powdery cosmetic material having the same color, gloss and touch as those of the material actually used and has an advantage that powdery cosmetic material is strongly adhered to the sheet substrate.

Fig. 1

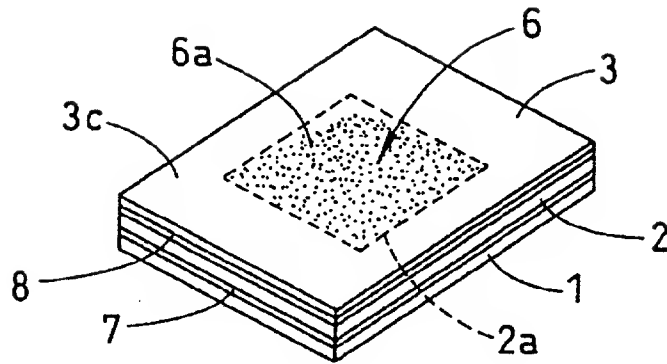


Fig. 2

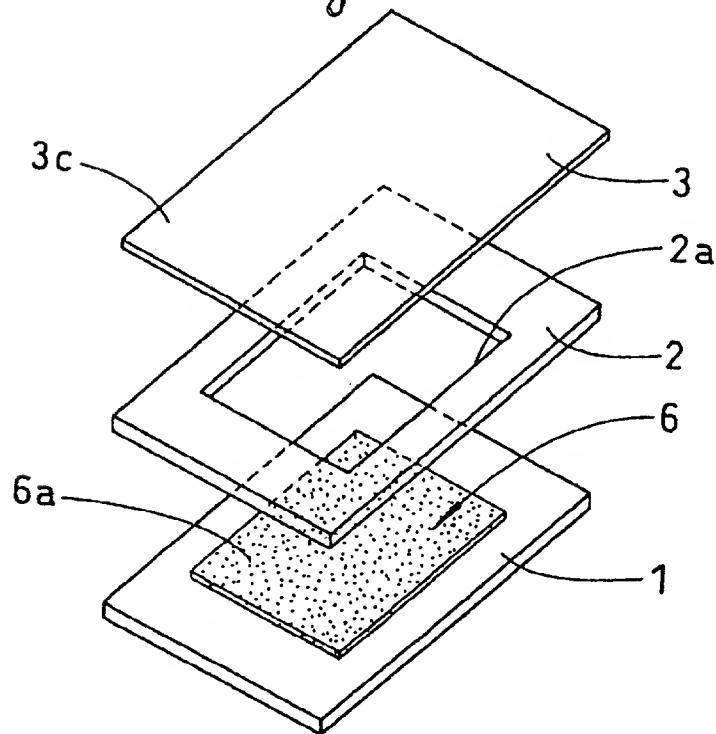


Fig. 3

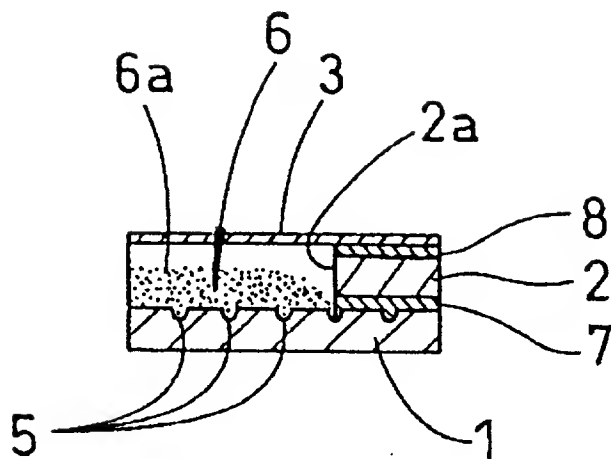


Fig. 4

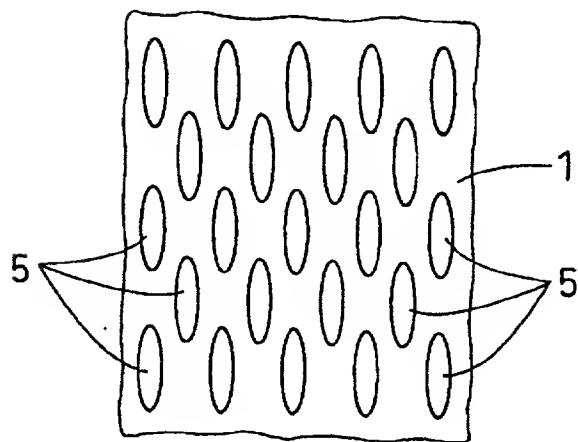


Fig. 5

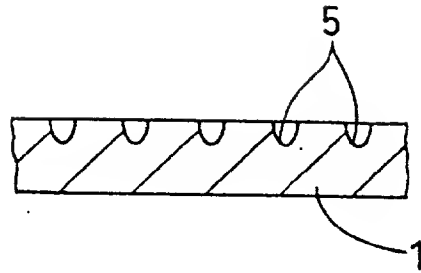


Fig. 6

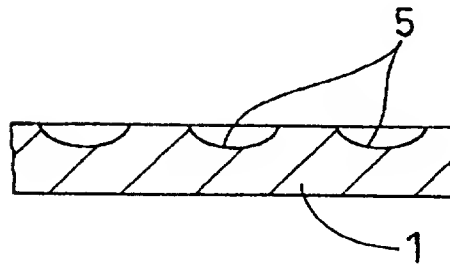


Fig. 7

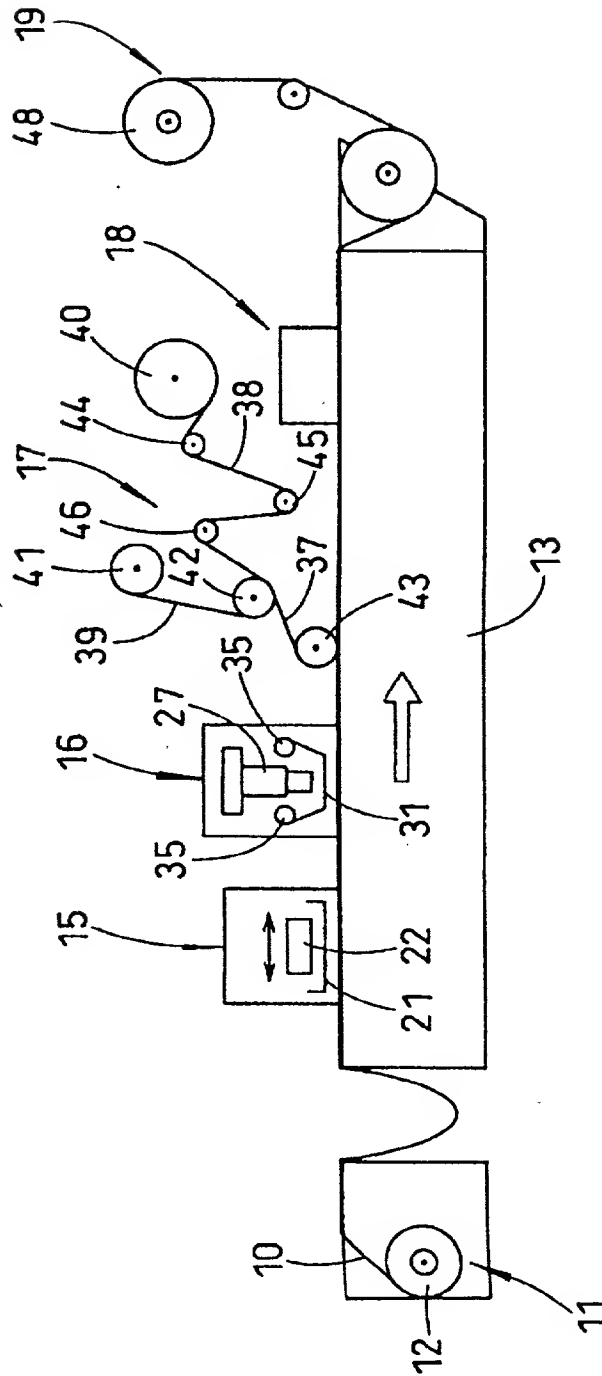


Fig. 8

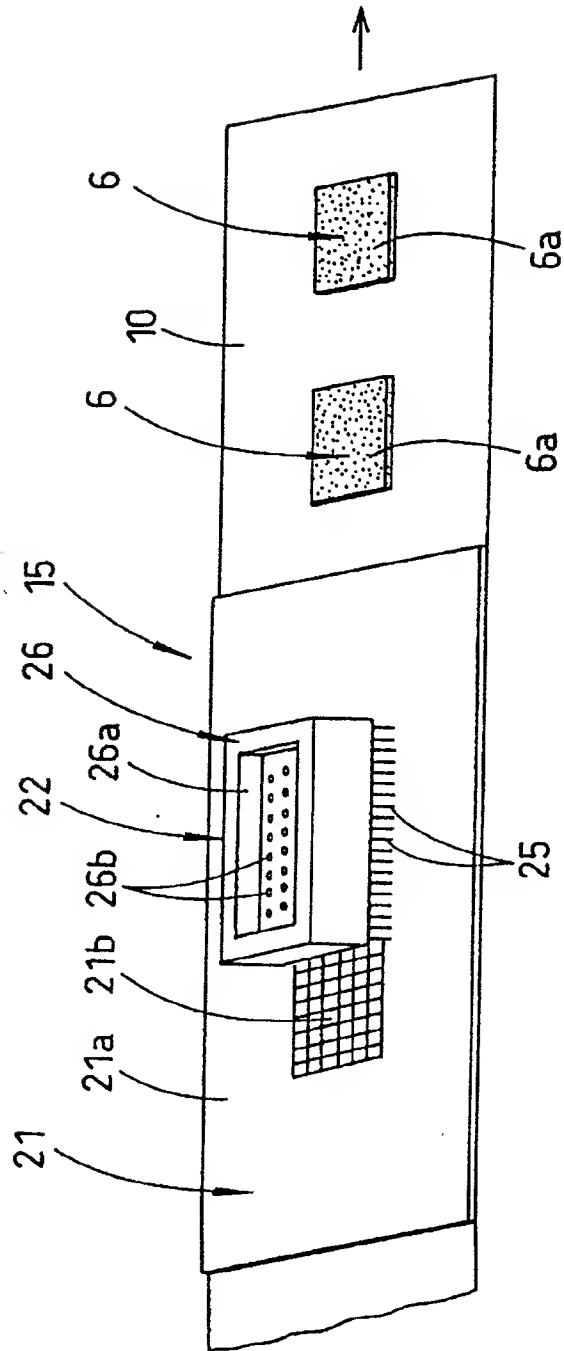


Fig 9

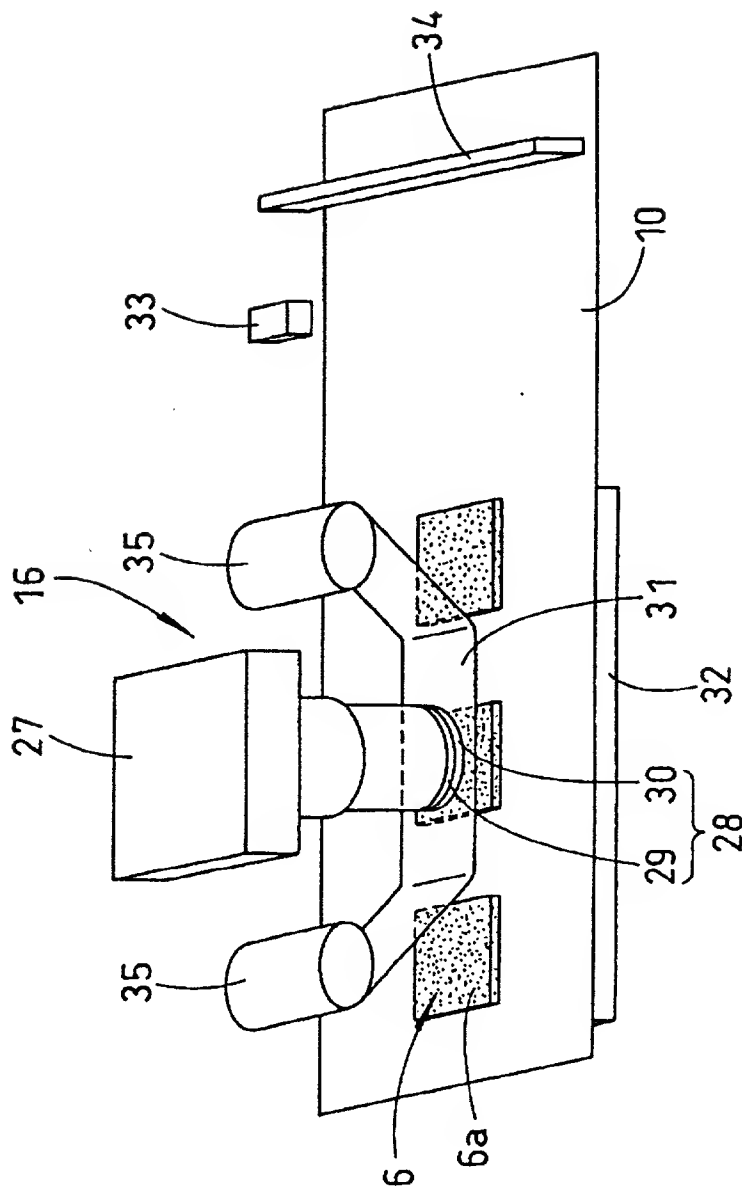


Fig. 10

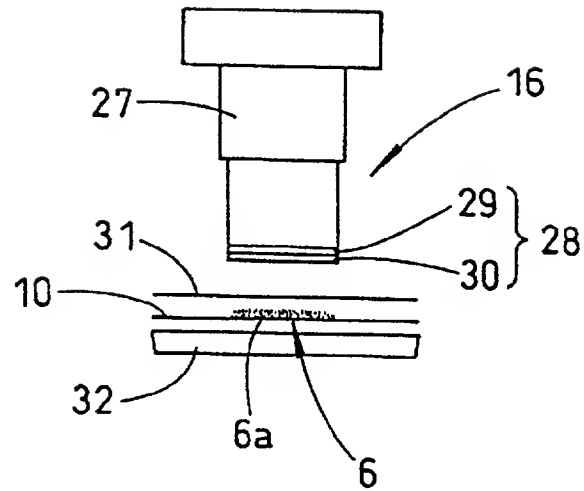


Fig. 11

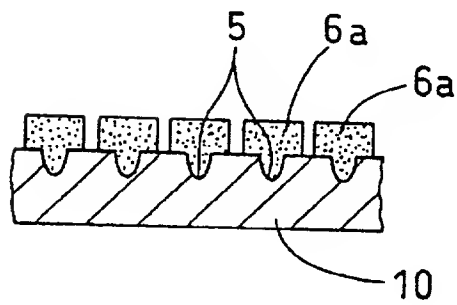


Fig. 1 2

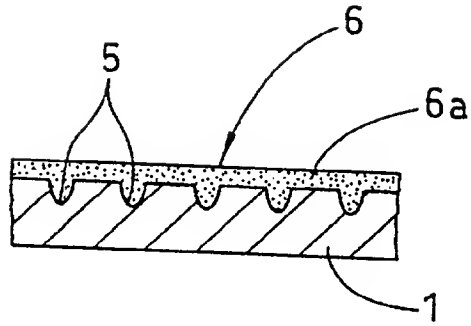


Fig. 1 3

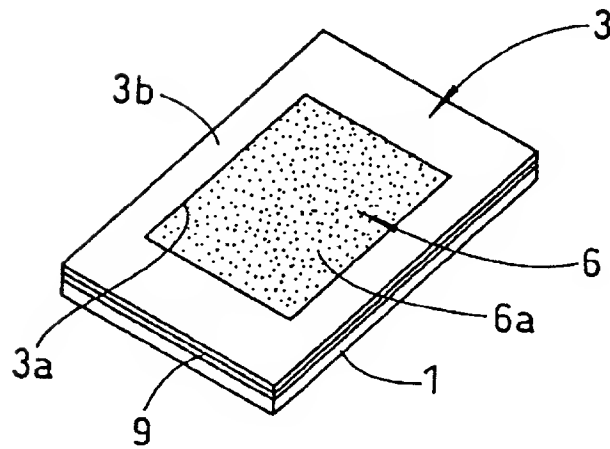


Fig. 14

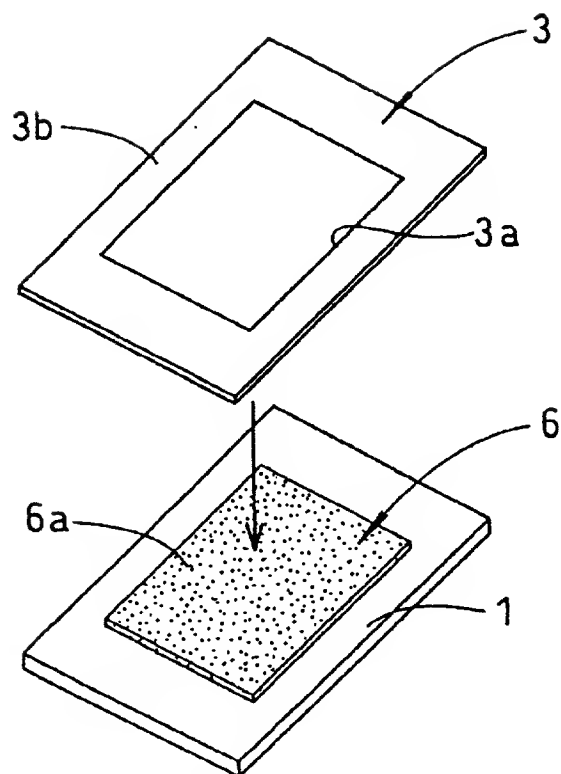


Fig. 1 5

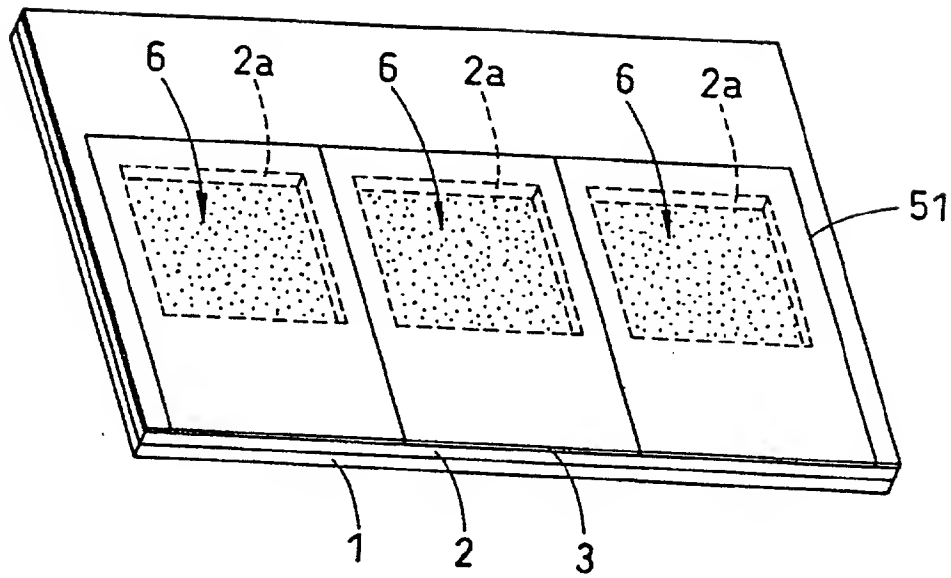


Fig. 1 6

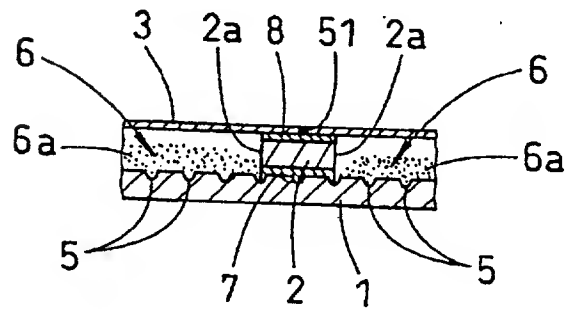


Fig. 17

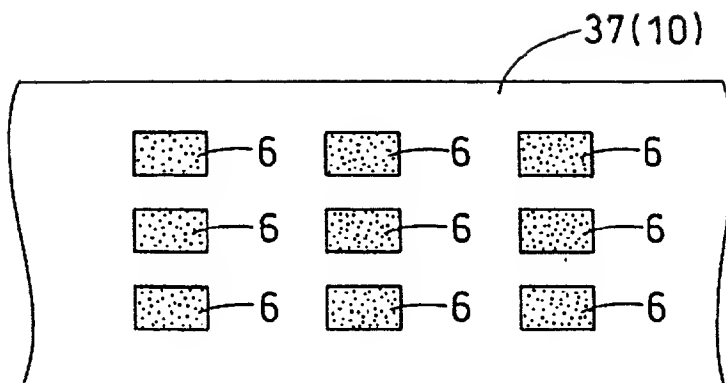
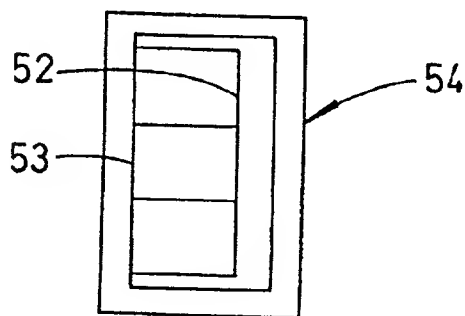


Fig. 18



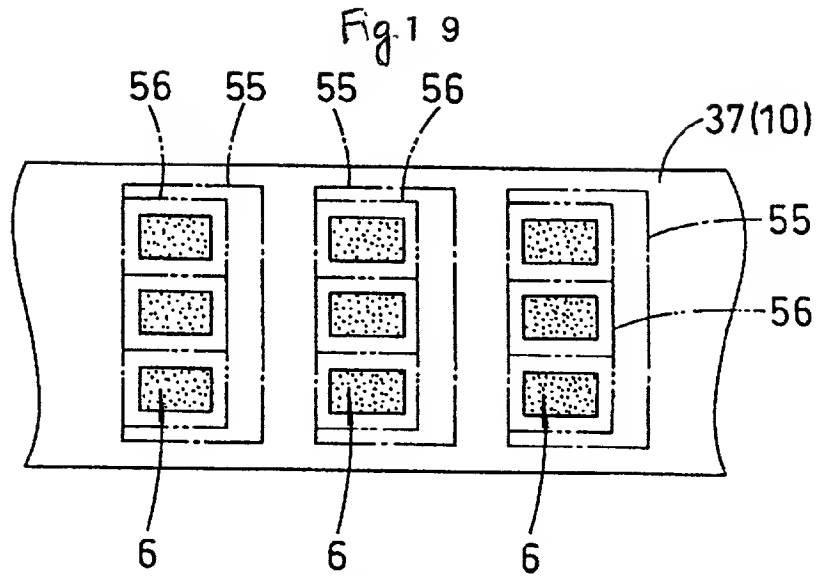


Fig. 20



Fig. 21

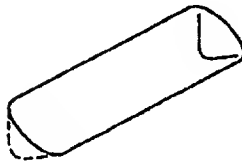


Fig. 2 2



Fig. 2 3

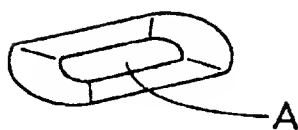


Fig. 2 4

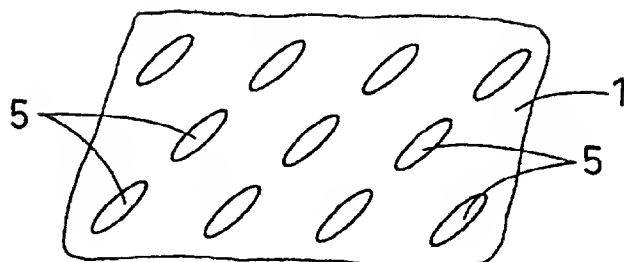
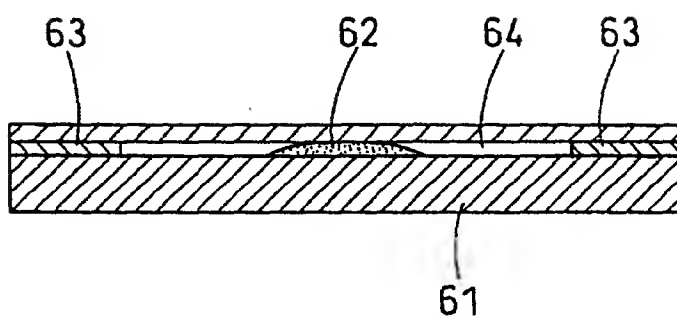


Fig. 25



DECLARATION
and POWER OF ATTORNEY

☒ ORIGINAL
☐ CONTINUATION
☐ DIVISIONAL

As a below named inventor, I declare that the information given herein is true, that I believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed as 1 below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled: COSMETIC MATERIAL SHEET, METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING OF THE SHEET AND APPARATUS FOR USE IN THE MANUFACTURE, the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☒ was filed on October 31, 2001 as United States Application Number or PCT International Application Number 09/980,816 and was amended on.

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56(a). I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above. I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN APPLICATION(S)

COUNTRY	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING Month Day Year	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
Japan	11-206793	July 21, 1999	Yes
Japan	11-343695	December 2, 1999	Yes

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

PCT/JP00/04869 July 19, 2000 Pending
(Application Serial No.) (Filing Date) (Status)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or Agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. ☒ Customer Number

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I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

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DATE 2002.1.22	DATE 2002.1.22
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 3 <i>Yohei Aonuma</i>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 4 <i>Yukio Hishinuma</i>
DATE 2002.1.22	DATE 2002.1.22

81833.0031

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7	Name of Inventor	Residence: CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
	Post Office Address		CITIZENSHIP
8	Name of Inventor	Residence: CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
	Post Office Address		CITIZENSHIP
9	Name of Inventor	Residence: CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
	Post Office Address		CITIZENSHIP
10	Name of Inventor	Residence: CITY	STATE or COUNTRY
	Post Office Address		CITIZENSHIP

I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 5 <u>Norio Arai</u>	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 6
DATE <u>2002. 1. 22</u>	DATE
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 7	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 8
DATE	DATE
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 9	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 10
DATE	DATE